

Originator

Item

Park and Recreation Manager's Report

Date

7/8/2015

Description

1. Intercity Regional Trail Project – Three Rivers Park District is moving ahead with the installation of the trail along Old Cedar Avenue. Placement of the concrete wall cap is complete and the ornamental railing on top of the wall is anticipated to be installed the week of June 29. Work on the footings for the north and south piers for the 12th Avenue pedestrian bridge crossing I-494 continues. The Contractor has started saw cutting for removals on Old Cedar Avenue between 86th Street and 80th Street. Fence removal and relocation in this area is underway. Traffic on Old Cedar Avenue between 86th Street and 80th Street has been shifted to the east to allow for work near the west curb line during construction.
2. Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Work on the Century Link fiber line under the bridge has begun. This work must first be completed before work on the bridge itself may commence. It is expected that this utilities work should be completed by mid-July.
3. 2015 Centerpoint Energy Beltline Project - Work continues on the portion of the Project that extends from Spring Valley Circle down the MN River Bluff. The Bluff trail is currently closed to through traffic (foot and bicycle) in the location of the work and is anticipated to remain closed until late August.
4. Sealed Bid for 2015 Partial Reroofing for Creekside Community Center - Bids are being requested to secure a contract for the partial reroofing of Creekside Community Center. Bids are due on June 30 and a recommendation for award brought to Council on July 6.
5. Bloomington Family Aquatic Center Kudos - Parks and Recreation received compliments on the professionalism of the pool staff from a City employee who took her grandson there this weekend. She noted the following about the lifeguards: “They were super attentive, paid excellent attention to the swimmers, and were very thorough in their inspections of the water and surrounding areas.” She also pointed out that the front office staff was helpful, respectful and attentive, adding “It was refreshing to see such a nice group of young people handling so much responsibility.”
6. Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements Project - The bidding schedule has been revised for this project and will begin advertising on June 18 with a bid opening scheduled for July 14. This project is anticipated to be on the City Council’s July 27 agenda to award the contract. The enhanced pedestrian crossing of East Bush lake Road at Bush Lake Beach is included in the project.
7. Park Trail Maintenance - The Moir Park bituminous trail has been marked for contractors to quote patching and seal coating. The pavement markings such as “skin” and “cut” recently reported as graffiti were painted by Maintenance to communicate the locations and type of work needed to the bidding contractors.

The Normandale Lake trail has some areas with roots sprouting through the pavement causing “volcanoes.” These areas are scheduled to be cut out and patched by City staff in the coming weeks. The trail on the north side has a void washing out beneath it on the east side of the bridge footing and it will be repaired by City staff as well.

8. League of American Bicyclists Visit - Representatives from the League of American Bicyclists are planning to visit Bloomington on July 20 to talk about bicycling in the City. The visit is intended to help continue to improve conditions for cycling in the City, and will include discussion with Councilmembers, staff, and

local bike industry personnel, including local bike shop owners and manufacturers like QBP. The visit will also have a casual bike ride to discuss and provide feedback for existing bicycling infrastructure in the City. The League will also provide a post-visit write up that will be provided to the Council. P&R staff will participate in this activity.

The League of American Bicyclists was founded in 1880, and continues their longstanding efforts to promote bicycling advocacy. In 2014 representatives from the Bloomington Bicycle Alliance and City staff submitted an application for ranking in the League's "Bike Friendly Community" program, receiving Honorable Mention for that effort. Because of that work, Bloomington was one of only 100 cities in the US selected by League members for a visit.

9. New Sign at the Toro Grandstand - A new sign was installed the week of June 22 at the Toro Grandstand at Red Haddock Field, see enclosed photo.



10. Golf Carts Missing at Dwan - Ten golf carts were apparently stolen from Dwan Golf Club this week. The carts were found missing on the morning of June 3. Staff believes that the culprits entered a gate off of Overlook Drive after dark. It appears they bypassed a lock by using a cable wrapped around a nearby tree to pry a pole away from the gate, allowing them to open it without having to unlock it. It seems they then proceeded up the middle of the course to the clubhouse, where the carts are stored. Staff has implemented extra security measures on all gates and the remaining golf carts. They have filed a report with the Police Department and are working with the Risk Manager and Yamaha, the carts' owner, to determine next steps. A total of 80 carts were leased from Yamaha for the 2015 golf season, 65 at Dwan and 15 at Hyland Greens. The carts are valued at \$3,950 each.
11. New Rate at Pool Garners Praise - Thirty-year residents of Bloomington sent a note this week to thank the City Council for approving the resident rate for season passes at the aquatic center for the grandchildren of resident grandparents. They are in the process of getting the necessary forms completed for their granddaughter. "We appreciate a lone voice on this subject bearing weight and moving through the government to a welcome outcome," they added.
12. 8201 Park Avenue South - The City has been served as a named Defendant in a foreclosure action by MidCountry Bank against the owner of 8201 Park Avenue South and other interested parties. The matter has been filed in the Hennepin County District Court. City Legal staff is reviewing the Summons and

Complaint. All future communication regarding the matter between and among Legal staff, other City staff, appointed officials, and the City Council will be subject to attorney-client privilege.

13. Foxes in Running Park – Staff were notified in late May by a resident expressing concern about foxes running loose in the neighborhood near Running Park. The Police staff Animal Control Coordinator (ACC) followed up on this matter and discovered that nine pups and one adult fox were reported living under a shed in an adjacent property. The ACC has not received any direct reports of these foxes causing problems with people at Running Park. The pups should be mature enough that they will abandon the den and leave the area. The homeowner was content with the foxes living under her shed and stated she has had no problems with them, and was not afraid of them. The ACC indicated that foxes are not known to be a threat to humans. He will patrol the area and continue to monitor the situation.
14. New Play Features at Bloomington Family Aquatic Center - The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center introduced new diving well play features to the public late last week. The aquatic center has replaced the two old diving boards with one new diving board and a 12-foot climbing wall. Patrons of the aquatic center are enjoying these new amenities, which are pictured below.



15. Mini View is off to a great start. Staff welcome about fifty children, ages four through seven, each day at Valley View Elementary. Staff use a grouping system to look after children throughout the day, while remaining flexible in a drop-in service program. Staff lead children in a morning meeting to look over daily schedule, sing songs, and play group games. On average, Mini View orders around 35 lunches per day for those who do not pack a lunch. We spend about 1.5 hours at the pool in the afternoon. Overall, parents have been pleased with the developmentally appropriate guidelines and practices employed by staff.



16. Summer Adventure Playgrounds - This program has got off to a great start! Our numbers for parks has continued to rise each week and participation is high. The parks have been busy playing organized games, doing arts and crafts, and building relationships! You can see the excitement of each and every participant to return the next day! During the first week, we took a field trip to Skateville and had a great time skating and singing songs together! When we return from the 4th of July week, we will be gearing up for Safety Boot Camp at the Bloomington Civic Plaza.
17. The View - While similar to the Playgrounds, this program is structured slightly differently with longer hours and located at a school. The mornings consist of team building and structured programing with an afternoon filled with swimming at Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.
18. Inclusion Services – Staff continues to provide a wide range of support to many participants with physical and mental impairments. We support participants in all of our programs including Summer Adventure Playgrounds, The View, Mini View, Galaxy Summer of Service, and the Playground Partnership program. Staff also provides support to individuals registered for classes through the Art Center (Artistry) and SLAM and will also soon join Camp Kota. Inclusion services provide support to participants in all programs, all summer long!

Requested Action

No action required.

Attachments: